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Atlantic Insight

December 1984

**A giant heart makes
Saint Nick jolly**

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For every woman who longs for a beauty regime that's fast, reliable and hers alone, The Interlude is for her.

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The Interlude has seven professional hair stylists, each one dedicated to giving you the style that best suits your personality, your physical attributes, and your lifestyle.

Quality cutting is essential at The Interlude. To strengthen and accentuate the cut we offer a perm support system for easy manageability, whether you have chosen soft body or controlled curl.

A professional view of color blending is also offered either for a temporary or permanent enhancement.

Make Up

Beauty is more than skin deep, but professional skin care is a major part of looking your best. More and more women are taking advantage of the special services offered by The Interlude aesthetic team. A group of dedicated professionals who have the knowledge and the experience, but most important of all, they have a concern for you as an individual.



The aestheticians welcome the opportunity to assist with your beauty regime, either through consultation or make-up lessons.

The products we use and recommend are the finest available — Ellen Betrix, Redken, Dr. Renaud, and Rosa Graf. And when you are really winter-weary, arrange for a series of treatments in our Sun Spa.

Skin Care

The Interlude facials are given in what guarantees to be a very relaxing and luxurious hour which can offer limitless benefits. The incorporation of many advanced clay treatments, paraffin treatments, gentle cosmetic peeling and ampoule penetration with specialized concentrated ingredients for highly effective results. The aesthetic team also provides a hair removal system either by wax or electrolysis. Their nail repair and extension service is a unique addition to the traditional manicure.

Color is Magic

Discover the colors that really bring out the best in you. With our Seasons Concept, the color analyst creates your individual color palette, with make-up applied in the correct and most flattering tones.

But coordinated color is much more than just make-up. So the Seasons Concept also includes advice on Jewellery, glasses, furs, hosiery, and hair color. You also receive a leather wallet of fabric swatches, which makes shopping for your fashion wardrobe so much easier and so much more fun!

Dressing the Part

Total Care at The Interlude naturally includes offering you a wonderful collection of the latest fashions by Canada's top designers.

Here again, you'll have expert help in choosing your wardrobe, picking the right colors, and guiding you through the sometimes baffling array of seasonal styles.

Exciting News

In 1985, The Interlude will open the new health spa. This wonderful & essential expansion will include a fully equipped gym, sauna, steam room, eucalyptus room, whirlpool baths, professional body massage and body treatments.

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More than a red suit, beard and Ho ho to make Santa

Lift the beard of a department store Santa and who will you find? A slightly tipsy part-timer? A professional who truly loves children? Or maybe, just maybe ...

by Charmaine Gaudet

Think about this for a moment. Who have you seen most this Christmas season? By way of a hint, think bright red suit. Jingle bells.

Ho ho ho.

Who else, if not jolly old Saint Nick himself? Eyes twinkling, cheeks round and rosy as a Gravenstein, his face smiles from every second Christmas card, the pages of magazines and newspapers, roadside billboards and television screens.

We've even seen him in the flesh; well, maybe not the real Santa, because, as everybody knows, the one and only Mr. Claus is holed up at the

North Pole, up to his bushy, white eyebrows in last-minute details. But we've seen a whack of look-alikes, sometimes several daily; in fact, in mid-November men and women dressed as Santa become as commonplace as Catholics at a Knights of Columbus hall.

Last year MacFarland's Rental Centre, the largest supplier of Santa suits in Metro, recorded a whopping 200 rentals in three weeks. "The de-

mand is skyrocketing," says party goods department manager John Dryden. "We started off with just six suits five years ago, and now we're up to 36." You can rent a suit and disposable wig and whiskers for as little as \$30. If you'd rather buy, you can blow up to \$500 on a deluxe, professional-quality outfit.

While clothes may make the man, a bright red suit, a snowy beard and even an authentic belly laugh don't necessarily make the Santa, say some professionals who portray jolly old Saint Nick on behalf of the benevolent, but busy, gent. "To play a good Santa, the main thing is you've got to love children," says Don Sandback, an Eastern Transport truck driver from Truro who has been a professional Santa for many years. He used to play Santa for large firms in Montreal, his

home town, and still does it for groups like the Truro policemen and the Rotary Club. He won't take a paycheck any more. But he'll gladly accept a donation for the Izaak Walton Killam Hospital for Children, where he has played Santa for the past two years.

Sandback is the best Santa the hospital has ever had, insists Christmas party organizer Linda Skinner, the child life department director, who has seen many Santas come and go. "Santa's visit is the most exciting event of the year for the kids here." But, she says, Christmas at the hospital can also be sad because some children are very sick and "some aren't even going to make it. You know this, and so it's sometimes hard to keep your spirits up." But Sandback says he doesn't find it as hard. "I draw on all

the smiles and excitement. It really makes me high. When I make the kids happy, I'm happy."

Meanwhile, for the past six years Gary D'Eon, a firefighter with the Dartmouth Fire Department, has devoted five weeks a year to his second career — playing Santa at the Micmac Mall. A single parent with three kids, he agrees it is essential to love kids to be a good Santa representative. Being a parent also helps. "Having kids of my own enables me to relate to other kids." He says kids believe he really is Santa when he gently chides them to go to bed early or to eat everything on their plates.

He tries to ensure a child's visit is not like a stint on a production line, because shopping mall Santas all too often push kids through like clockwork. "When I took this job, I made

Don't forget Santa's postal code

Every year, millions of kids send letters like this to Santa Claus. And he does his best to answer each and every one. The enormity of the task boggles the minds of mere mortals. But then, Santa

Claus is not like us. After all, it takes a special being to teach reindeer to fly, to travel the world in a single night and to live year round in a climate colder than March in Moncton.

Marathon letter writing is one thing. But then there are the logistics of moving all that mail to and from the North Pole. In this respect, Santa is only human, because, just like the rest of us, he relies on Canada Post.

To accommodate the tons of letters to Santa and his replies, the Post Office has a Santa Mail Program. Marilyn Farley, community relations director for the Atlantic Division of the Post Office, explains the program is designed to hasten delivery to and from the North Pole.

The bulk of letters increased drastically in the past few years. When the program started in Nova Scotia four years ago, 2,000 letters were sent to Santa. The program was expanded to the rest of the Atlantic Provinces and last year the 1,212 post offices in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and P.E.I. handled more than 50,000 letters.

Farley says kids can help ensure their letters reach Santa by using the North Pole's postal code — H0H 0H0. "To get a reply," she says, "don't forget to include a return address."

Oh, and by the way, a few days before Christmas last year, this handwritten letter arrived in a Halifax apartment:

Dear Kevin,

Merry Christmas! Mrs. Claus found your letter in the mail box this morning and we both thought it was lovely. There are so many friends writing to us now, and we often sit here by the fire reading the letters together. The elves and I have been making many surprises and gifts for all our friends, and Mrs. Claus has been busy baking some goodies and planning my trip. We are all very excited and can hardly wait for Christmas. Try to be extra good now, and think of others while I'm thinking of you.

Love,
Santa

December 6 1983,
Dear Santa
how is Mrs. Claus doing
could i please hav a
Little bit of GI Joe
men in my stocking
please. And the
GI Joe tank please.
Where do you Live.
Love
Kevin

CITYSTYLE

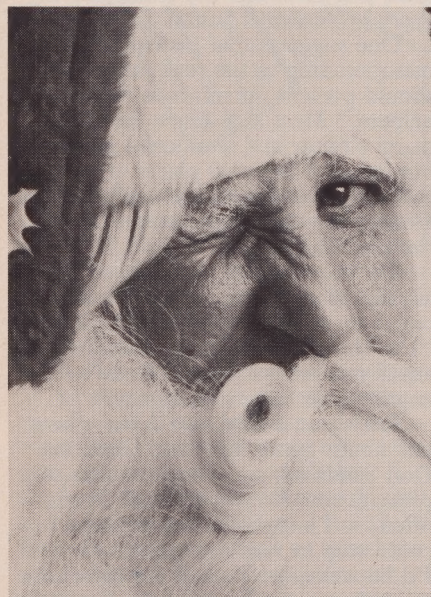


Sandback: "You've got to love children"

only one stipulation: that I would spend a lot of time with each kid. I spend an average of two minutes, and sometimes as long as five. People really don't mind standing in line if they feel their kid is going to get something out of it."

While obviously fluent in the language of children, D'Eon and Sandback have yet another advantage — they are bilingual. "French kids here expect an English Santa. When Santa speaks their language, they're thrilled. It reinforces their belief in him," Sandback explains. It's another reason why D'Eon and Sandback are among the best in the business.

But for every dedicated Santa's helper, there's another for whom the job holds nothing more than a paycheck. Sandback says many kids are



... Being a parent also helps, adds D'Eon

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BEAUTIFUL SOLID OAK

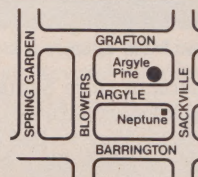
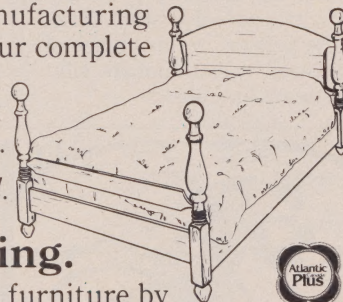
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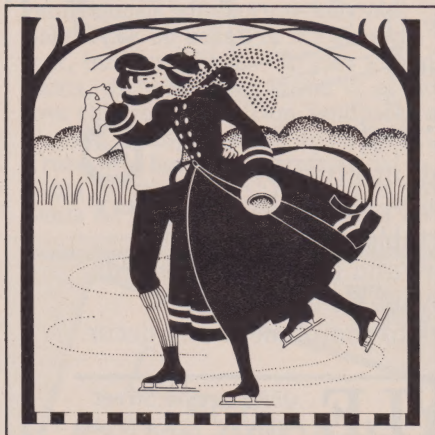
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D'Eon, in Micmac Mall, spends a lot of time with each kid

afraid of department store Santas because "they're loud, rough, or coarse." Or worse, they've had a nip or two to reinforce them for a four-hour shift with dozens of squirming kids.

A tarnished Santa portrayal is a blasphemy, says actor, writer and consultant John Fulton, who has played Santa at Simpsons and the Penhorn Mall. "Santa Claus is sacred. He's a holy man, a saint. That's why you have to take great care in how you portray him." Fulton, whose roles have ranged from the wizard in this year's Nova Scotia Tattoo to a giant frog, feels Santa is the most difficult role of all because his character is so specific and narrow. "Almost everything he does is out of context. To play him well, you have to stay in character every second you are on... you can't scratch your nose or fidget with the elastic in your beard." He insists that staying in character requires the skills of a professional actor, so he prepares for his part with dedicated concentration. He dresses at least half an hour before performing and then gazes into a mirror until he becomes a smiling, jolly picture-card Santa. He says it is also crucial that a good Santa not reek of aftershave, deodorant or alcohol because children rely heavily on their senses and a strong, unfamiliar smell can reduce them to tears.

Substitute Santas must also cope with ever-growing gift lists — and expectations — from children and parents. "Often Santa's expected to provide the magic that a lot of parents can't," says Fulton. But one Santa re-

calls a rare occasion when a young boy asked for "peace and love in the world." Deeply touched, the Santa asked if the boy wanted something for himself. "Sure, but my parents always get me everything I ask for anyway."

In times past, Santa was revered as the patron saint of children, bearer of gifts for the needy and the very spirit of Christmas. But commercial marketing has turned him into a peddler of shaving cream, appliances and lingerie. Because Santa is a powerful marketing tool, most stores want one. The resulting abundance of Santa Claus clones can give parents headaches, bewilders kids, and threatens the credibility of every professional Santa.

One suggests that instead of all masquerading as the real Santa "we should present ourselves as Santa's helpers." Most kids know Santa has many strange and wonderful powers, but he can't be in 10 places at once, so that could be a plausible explanation. Unless, of course, you happen to be the real Santa.

On that subject, professional Santas are notoriously non-committal. Ask one if he really is Santa and he'll say, "I'm the spirit of Santa Claus," or "I am if you believe I am." So he's just another look-alike. Well, maybe...

Let's put it this way. After a long talk about Santa, kids and Christmas, Don Sandback and I were exchanging pleasantries. I travel through Truro often, so I suggested that perhaps I could stop to visit sometimes. He said I'd be welcome. I asked for directions to his home and he replied, "Look for the reindeer, then turn right." **C**

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Need a different gift for Christmas?



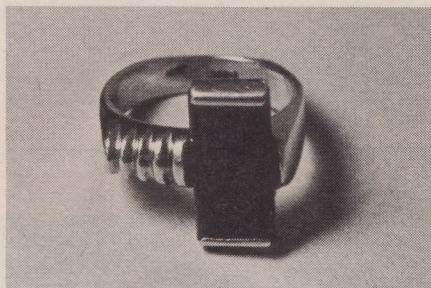
Stuck for an idea about something really neat to give someone special for Christmas? A CityStyle task force wandered through stores and wracked its brains for hours looking for out-of-the-way gifts. Here are some suggestions.

Do you want to keep someone up in the air about what you are giving them? Aero Tech Aviation, of Hardwood Lands near Shubenacadie, sells small airplanes called **ultralights**. A single-seater Wizard J3B costs \$7,200 and a two-seater T38B goes for \$9,200. Your recipient will need an ultralight pilot's licence from the department of transport, and Aero Tech can provide the training.

Rent a chauffeur-driven **Rolls Royce** for the person who aspires to the trappings of wealth, but can't afford them. Pronto Rolls Royce Limousine of Halifax can provide a dark green 1957 Silver Cloud II, complete with red carpet service and a uniformed chauffeur. Understandably, the car is laid up for the winter but it will be back on the road in May. A new rate structure is expected to be slightly higher than the \$35 to \$45 per hour charged this year.

To ease aching muscles, Brocklin Toys Ltd. of Middleton has come up with a line of **wooden muscle massagers** and foot rollers which would suit almost anyone on your "hard-to-buy-for" list. They are available at Jennifer's of Nova Scotia for \$10.00.

If you are interested in giving an opulent gift, consider **custom-made jewelry**. You could, for example, have a ring made with lapis lazuli — a bright blue gem sometimes flecked with gold-like chips and punctuated with brilliant streaks of white. The stone was favored by ancient emperors for everything ranging from jewelry to inlays for gold-encrusted walls. There are several chunks of Afghanis-



tan lapis lazuli in Fawcett Bradshaw Goldsmiths Ltd. on Barrington Street and you could have a piece set in a 14 carat, yellow gold ring for about \$400.

For audiophiles who need their tunes, even on the coldest days, it is now possible to be wired for sound without having frozen ears. **Hear Muffs** made of real fur are equipped



with speakers and a jack which fit all portable stereo radio/cassette players.

Available in a choice of muskrat, blue fox, racoon, fox, otter, beaver and coyote for \$35.00 a pair from Mitchell Fur on Blowers Street.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN O'REILLY

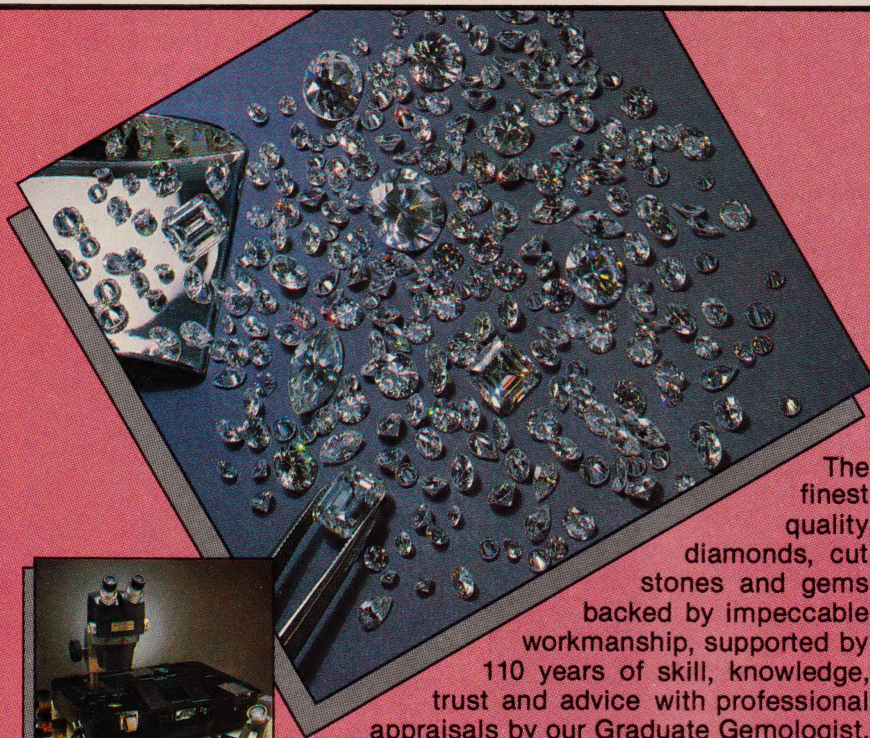
Need something for a sailor? How about four **non-skid wine glasses** that hold 10 ounces each? These glasses, made of a space-age product called Lexan that was developed by General Electric, have an edge over other non-skid products because they are unbreakable. A good sharp crack on a table won't do a thing to them. Available at The Binnacle on Blowers Street for \$32.00 a set or \$8.00 each.

For leather lovers, consider a made-in-Halifax **suede tie** from Aurora Designs. They sell for \$18.50 at D.J.'s Tannery on Spring Garden Road. The store also carries some interesting **hand-knit leather sweaters**, made in Turkey, which cost \$129.00.

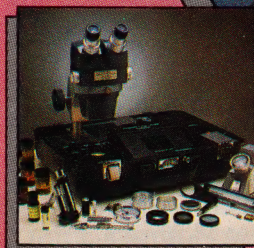
The person who has everything might appreciate a **gift pack of exotic preserves** like brandied cherries, pears in triple sec, fiddleheads en marinade, brandied peach marmalade, rum pear butter and brandied apple butter. Several of these products, made by Fin d'Hiver, Quebec, have won awards of excellence. A gift pack of three 250 millilitre jars is \$22.95, or one 500 millilitre jar is \$13.95 at Between Friends in the Courtyard on Dresden Row.

The otolith is a bone in the inner ear of a fish that acts as a balancing organ. An enterprising craftsman has developed a **unique line of jewelry** using this small bone, which is ivory colored and looks like a small shell. A collection of earrings, necklaces and lapel pins is available at craft stores. Prices start at about \$8.00.

Because brier is hard and has a convoluted grain, it is exceptionally difficult to carve. It follows that a **carved brier pipe** might be hard to find. MacDonald Tobacco and Gifts, in Barrington Place, had one shaped like a fisherman's head for \$199.00. If it is gone and you have a lot more money to spend, you might consider a set of seven pipes — one for each day of the week — in a smart black case for about \$1,300.



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Children and adults who love dolls may appreciate a **doll house** or furniture. The houses start at about \$60 as kits you build yourself. But these toys can cost as much or as little as you want: furniture starts at about \$3.99 for a simple pine piece and ranges up to \$225 for a gold-upholstered, seven-piece livingroom set. The Doll House, in Historic Properties, also stocks a wide range of toys and dolls, including limited edition, numbered representations of the royal family.

Inexpensive beauty aids could include **Japanese pumice stones** — volcanic rock to smooth rough skin — or **Pirarucu fish scale nail files**. The pumice costs \$4.95 and the files sell for \$1.99 at the Body Shop in Spring Garden Place. The store also stocks a wide variety of soaps and bath beads.

Another beauty gift could be a **gift certificate for a makeover**. A special on a facial, hair styling, manicure, pedicure and makeup goes for about \$80 at Interlude on Ochterloney Street in Dartmouth.

And, for those awkward-to-buy-for outdoorsmen in the family, help is also at hand.



A **Travel Half Dome backpack** by Camp Trails is cleverly designed to function as both commercial luggage and as an internal frame pack for extended use on the trail. A hidden panel unfolds from a secured bottom pocket to cover the adjustable suspension system when the pack is to be used as luggage. The reinforced carry handle and detachable shoulder strap make it convenient to tote around airports.

Available in various colors from the Trail Shop in Halifax, the pack sells in various sizes from \$90.00 to about \$200.00.

For the anglers in gift givers' lives, Hardy Bros. of England manufactures a **six-piece luxury fly rod**, small enough to fit in a brief case, and an accompanying pigskin and aluminum protective case.

Now available in a deluxe burgundy-colored blank in seven-foot, eight-foot and nine-foot lengths, this item is at once a thoroughly practical pack rod, a well-engineered fishing tool, and a status symbol for the angler who has everything.



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Sold in, or available through, quality sports stores everywhere, the rod retails for about \$350.00 and the case for about \$100.00.

Frozen finger tips can be a thing of the past for winter sports buffs and



waterfowl fanatics with **Heat-Aires mitts** by Paris Glove. This Canadian-made product is steerhide on the exterior, insulated with synthetic fibre

Next
month in

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Pimps and "players"
— they claim there are
no victims

Day tripping from
metro — on skis

Fashion and
entertainment

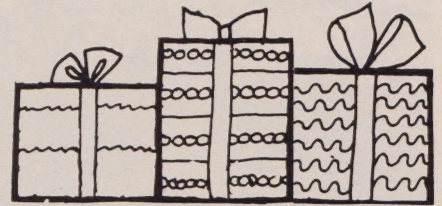
CITYSTYLE

and lined inside with synthetic pile.

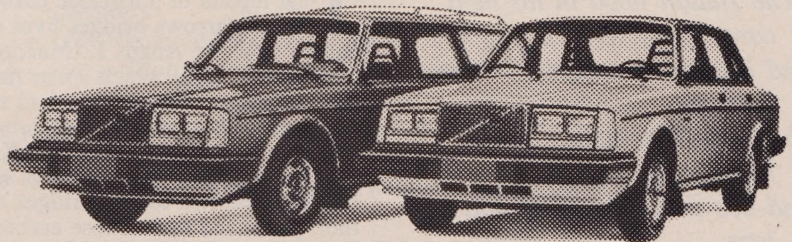
It's the small velcro-closure pocket in the end of each mitt that makes them different, for inside is a liquid fuel satellite heater with an estimated burning time of eight to 12 hours. The ignition system is flameless, operating on a single AA battery, and the heater burns ordinary lighter fluid or benzine. Available from the Trail Shop, the mitts retail for approximately \$60.00.

Or, on a more economical scale, how about a subscription to Eastern Canada's new outdoor magazine, **Eastern Woods & Waters**. This high-quality, full-color publication will appear on the newsstands for the first time next March and has been de-

signed specifically for Atlantic Canadians. Special charter subscription rates are available through Northeast Publishing Ltd., 1668 Barrington St. in Halifax: \$12.95 for one year and \$22.95 for two years. **C**



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A runaway ship could have knocked down a Halifax Harbour bridge, fulfilling a Micmac curse

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*"The Indian stood in his light canoe.
And his hatchet under the waves he threw.
Then raised his hands to the heavens above.
And this is the legend of hate and love.
'Three times a bridge o'er these waves shall rise.
Built by the paleface so strong and wise.
Three times shall fall like a dying breath.
In storm and silence and last in death.'"*

— Author Unknown

by Brent King

That legend of a Micmac curse on three Narrows bridges lives on. But so does the Angus L. Macdonald (the third bridge) which spans the harbor in defiance of the hex. And to really miff the gods, up the harbor a way stands the A. Murray MacKay.

The prophecy hasn't always seemed so harmless: two earlier bridges met their predicted fate. Those earlier railway structures were made of wooden trestles and masonry piers. They were short-lived. The first, built in 1884, washed out seven years later in a severe storm. The second floated silently away — true to the spell — with the tide.

So, perhaps the Angus L. Macdonald's suspension engineering only marginally suspends local superstition. Thirty years old this spring, the Macdonald has been collecting tolls despite the dire predictions. In 1954, Halifax boasted 20,000 homes; a man's suit and two pairs of pants (on sale) went for \$29.39; and bridge builders, known as "sand hogs," doing dangerous excavation work earned \$85 for a

24-hour week.

Reg Allen, chairman of the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission, says little was left to chance when the mile-long Macdonald was opened on April 2, 1955. For starters, the scheduled ribbon cutting date was switched from April Fool's Day — just to be on the safe side. To double-whammy any bad spirits, the chief of the Micmac tribe served up some strong medicine of his own, and removed his ancestor's curse.

But the Macdonald has seen its share of tragedy. Several workers died building the bridge. Even when the \$11-million "massive graceful span" was erected, there were concerns about "special protection against any ship which might in some manner brush against the piers supporting the tower." The remedy then was to face the piers with granite.

The fear has always been that a vessel navigating the 1,100-foot channel between the bridge's piers might have steering, engine or electrical failure at a crucial moment.

"Statistics gathered from the various members of the International

Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association, embracing 18 countries who control facilities in substantially similar circumstances to ours, outline that the dangers are real," says a Macdonald pier protection study by consulting engineering firm Whitman, Benn & Associates Ltd.

The Canadian Coast Guard has found that almost half the bridge collisions are caused by human error, more than double the number caused by mechanical failure.

For commuters, a disabling collision would mean facing severe traffic tie-ups at the remaining bridge or driving 15 miles around Bedford Basin. If a bridge collapsed, rebuilding it would cost tens of millions of dollars and take a couple of years.

Since the opening of the Fairview Cove Container Terminal, ship traffic under the bridges has increased, and larger vessels are arriving. Some ships are third generation, or jumbo, container ships. The *Atlantic Companion* and *Atlantic Concert*, for example, are each 106 feet wide, 830 feet long and carry 36,000 metric tons of cargo.

In 1982, such circumstances led the Coast Guard to rank the Macdonald and MacKay as two of the most vulnerable bridges in the country. Protection

for the piers was termed urgent.

Now, however, that label no longer applies, thanks to a \$5-million program to place rock berms or protective islands around the piers. Safety upgrading was the result of a nine-year campaign for funding which involved municipal, provincial and federal government officials. Ottawa and Nova Scotia split the cost of the project which called for 350,000 cubic metres of stone fill to be built up around the two bridges' eastern piers.

The measure had immediate spin-offs. It helped the Bridge Commission find an insurer willing to underwrite the bridges (they're covered for \$80 million although they cost a total of

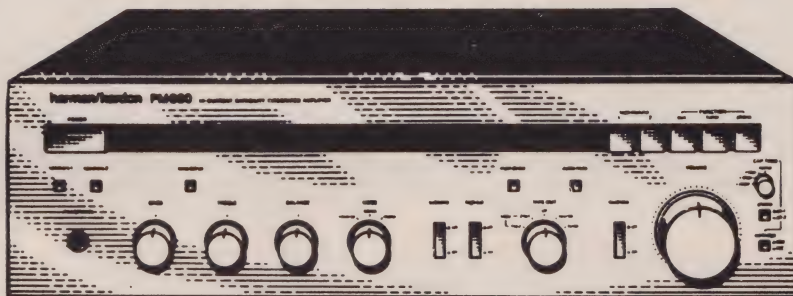
\$48 million to build). Unofficially at least, all this probably removes them from the list of high-risk bridges.

Another bridge could be in store for Halifax-Dartmouth. "The present two bridges are getting close to their maximum designed traffic at peak times," Reg Allen says. Over the years there have been schemes for a bridge or a tunnel connecting the cities to George's Island, as well as a North West Arm crossing.

For now, anyway, enjoy the existing twin sister suspension bridges. Their 12-storey-high decks offer quite a panoramic view. And, on a windy day, you really get your quarter's worth.

C

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Badminton's local heroes

Gladys and Annie Longard reside quietly in Halifax in a house filled to the brim with trophies. The trophies remind them that once they ruled the local badminton scene with unwavering success

by Mark Alberstat

Anyone who has played organized badminton in the Maritimes in the last 50 years has at some time felt the Midas touch of the Longard sisters of Halifax. Between them, they have coached hundreds of players, played thousands of games, and organized hundreds of tournaments.

Gladys, 71, and Annie, 69, reside in a large corner house on Oxford Street in south-end Halifax where they have lived for the past 68 years. The house is old and stately. The flowers in the front and the small garden in the back reveal nothing about the exploits of their owners. But once inside the



Annie and Gladys Longard: "We were the best in the Maritimes"

house, you immediately know why the Longards are regarded as living legends in Maritime badminton. The house is literally one huge trophy room. There are book cases with trophies, a piano covered with trophies, and buffet tables topped with yet more trophies. The walls are covered with plaques and gifts from

people they have worked with here and in other parts of the world. Among their prized possessions are three blue porcelain plates from Bermuda.

Gladys did not actually play badminton until after she graduated from Dalhousie University in 1934. Her graduation present was a badminton racket. Annie, meanwhile, had been playing for two years in Dalhousie's Studley Gymnasium. In 1936, Annie's doubles partner moved away. Gladys became Annie's partner. This union produced one of the best doubles teams ever seen in the Maritimes.

Annie and Gladys produced 21 local tournament wins and 19 runner-ups between the years 1942 and 1980. They have played 36 consecutive Maritime Badminton Championships and 41 Halifax City and District badminton championships. The Longard team has worked so well the sisters are often mistaken for twins though Gladys says, "Annie is the captain and I am the mate."

In 1936, the Longards started what became known as the Dalhousie University Alumni Badminton Club. This club came about as a result of Annie wanting to continue to play at Dalhousie. The club only lasted until 1950, when the Longards moved to a larger facility.

The Alumni Club was a member of the McCurdy Cup League. The other clubs in the league were based in churches and gyms around Halifax. One of the Longards' mentors at the club was a Dalhousie professor named Mercer, who had won the Maritime singles championship in the early 1920s. He instilled in Annie and Gladys their joy of the game and a lust for winning. It was fortunate, because

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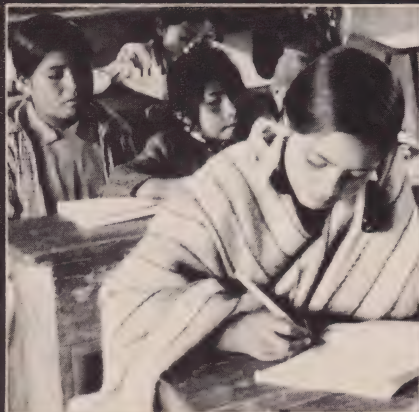
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the Dal Club seldom won in its early years. Annie recalls, "We thought we were good if we got one point."

The war years interrupted the Longards' rise through the ranks of the Maritime badminton scene. Between 1943 and 1945, all official tournaments stopped. During these years, Annie learned the fine art of mending broken shuttles. New ones were simply not available at this time. The prize money and entry fees of wartime badminton games went to the war effort.

In 1964, 1966 and 1968, Annie and Gladys saw more of the world than most people ever dream of seeing. These trips came about as a direct result of their badminton and their willingness to make friends in the sport. A short list of the cities they visited includes: Bombay, New Delhi, Bangkok, Melbourne and Copenhagen.

The organizer of these tours was Frank Devlin, a 10-time world champion who knew all the good players around the world and was welcome in just about every country he visited.

Needless to say, the Longards have many fond memories of those years and the following is just a taste of those memories: "In Bangkok the chief of police entertained us while we were there and he brought out Tia dancers as some of the entertainment," Annie recalls. Gladys vividly remembers New Delhi: "It was a riot. The crowded New Delhi streets were like nothing we had ever seen. We played in this hall and it was just jam packed, and the fans were yelling and clapping for every point."

In 1968 they went on a South Pacific tour, playing singles matches in 90-degree fahrenheit heat. The players on the tour spent three days in each city, spending the afternoon sightseeing and the evening playing the exhibition matches against local players.

Although the Longards played against the world's best they realized they were not world class. "We knew we were the best in the Maritimes," Annie says, "but going to the Canadian Championships eight times and never winning showed us that we were not the best in Canada." In their first experience with the Canadian Championships they advanced to the quarter finals and another time reached the semi finals.

But the Longards have, without a doubt, added much to the badminton scene in the Maritimes and Nova Scotia in particular. They have yet to be elected to the Nova Scotia Sports Heritage Hall of Fame. There are three categories in the Hall of Fame: Players and/or Game Builder and Team. The Longards qualify for the first two and are unquestionably worthy of the honor. This injustice will hopefully be remedied at the next Hall of Fame ceremonies. **C**

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GADABOUT

ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS

Dalhousie University Art Gallery.

Through December, *W.J. Wood: Paintings and Graphics*. An extensive display of the paintings, drawings and prints of Ontario artist W.J. Wood (1877-1954). Organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario. *Suzanne Swannick: New Work*. This exhibition of weaver Suzanne Swannick's work involves experimental drawings composed of layers of paper and pulled thread fabric. *Christine Ross-Hopper: New Work*. Hopper's previous interest in landscape painting has evolved to include horizontal groupings of photographs that depict common Nova Scotia landscapes and seascapes. Dalhousie University Campus, 6101 University Avenue. Hours: Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tues. evening, 7-10 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 1-5 p.m.; Closed Monday.

Saint Mary's University Art Gallery.

To Dec. 14: *Felicity Redgrave — Night/Spaces*. Gallery Hours: Tues., Wed., & Thurs., 1 p.m.-7 p.m.; Fri. 1 p.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Dartmouth Heritage Museum.

Dec. 10-Jan. 2: *Jeannine Meehan, Oils*. 100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 1-5 p.m., Wed., 1-5 & 6-9 p.m.; Sun. 2-5 p.m.

Nova Scotia Museum. Through December: *Nightwings. An Exhibit about Bats*. This exhibit, filled with bat specimens, enlarged models, close-up photos, video-clips and sounds, is from the National Museum of Natural Sciences and is designed to dispel misconceptions about these flying mammals. 1747 Summer Street. Hours: Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat., 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wed., 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

Through December: *Illustrations by Walter Scott*. An exhibit of 20 illustrations of fishing vessels and fishing methods by artist Walter Scott, commissioned by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 1675 Lower Water Street. Hours: Tues.-Sat., 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery.

To Dec. 16: Downstairs: *The Perfect Setting: Dinnerware for Government House*. Upstairs: *Metal Arts Guild of Nova Scotia: A Retrospective, 1951-1984*. Bedford Highway. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 1-5 p.m.; Tues., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Through December. Main Gallery: *Wayne*



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Collins formed the Halifax Banking Company, predecessor to today's Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Cunard built a shipping empire that stands today among the world's largest. Holland, publisher of the *Acadian Recorder*, built Atlantic Canada's first paper

mill. Bennet would become founder of the *New York Herald*. While Gesner won acclaim as the inventor of coal oil.

Joseph Howe, newspaper editor, fought for and won responsible government and freedom of the press. He then became one of the founders of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Premier of the Province and served the last few weeks of his life as Lieutenant Governor.

This century has brought to Granville Street the likes of Alexander Graham Bell, Glen Curtis and J.A.D. McCurdy — daring men who met here one afternoon to form the Halifax Flying Club.

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Boucher: A survey. A survey of works reviewing the artist's development over the past 10 years, including works on paper, paintings, and painted constructions. Guest Curator: Susan Gibson. Mezzanine Gallery: *David Taylor*. A survey of recent works by a Nova Scotian potter. Second Floor Gallery: *Permanent Collection*. A selection of works from the Permanent Collection exhibited on a rotating basis. 6152 Coburg Road. Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., 12 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

MOVIES

Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Sunday

Film Series: Dec. 2: *Class*. Advertised — wrongly — as a sex comedy, *Class* is really a study, often amusing, sometimes bitter, of the nature and the limits of friendship, illustrating finally the idea that the measure of true "class" is the weapon that you don't use, no matter what. Dec. 9: *Betrayal*. The world of Harold Pinter in *Betrayal* is a provocative place where feelings run high, tempers run short and marriages begin and end with the silence of desperation. A provocative and hypnotic film.

Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Travelogue Films: Dec. 10, *Bermuda*. This tiny semi-tropical island in the Atlantic is explored in depth — coral lagoons

and limestone caves with underground pools and spectacular stalactite and stalagmite formations, aerial views of the island's surrounding reefs and unusual coral rock formations, 17th and 18th century houses with their unique architectural styles; and a look at Bermuda's breath-taking underwater scenery and marine life. Filmed and narrated by Ralph Gerstle.

CLUB DATES

Privateers' Warehouse: Historic Properties. Middle Deck: Dec. 10-15: *Mark Haines and the Zippers*; Dec. 24-29: *The Aviators*. Hours: Lower Deck, 11:30-12:30 a.m. Middle Deck, 11-2:30 a.m.

Teddy's: Piano Bar at Delta Barrington Hotel. To Dec. 15: *Allan Fawcett*. Dec. 17-31: *J.P. Ellis*. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

The Village Gate: 534 Windmill Road, Dartmouth. Dec. 3-8: *Armageddon*; Dec. 17-22: *The Customers*; Dec. 24-29: *Songsmith*. Hours: Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

IN CONCERT

Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Dec. 6 & 7: *Les Ballets Trockadero*. This delightfully satiric company of all male dancers, performing the ballerina roles as well as the straight danseur assignments, presents a playful, entertaining view of traditional, classical ballet in parody form. Dec. 9: *Christmas in Song*. Dr. Walter Kemp leads the 100 voices of the Dalhousie Chorale and the sparkling sound of the Dalhousie Brass Ensemble in their 7th annual afternoon of seasonal music. *Christmas in Song* is fast becoming an established Halifax tradition as a musical treat for the whole family with audience carols and the children's quiz. A Department of Music presentation.

SPORTS

Dartmouth Sportsplex.

Metro Valley Junior A Hockey: Dec. 2, 2:30 p.m.: Dartmouth Fuel Kids versus Cole Harbour Colts. Dec. 16, 2:30 p.m.: Dartmouth Fuel Kids versus Halifax Lions. Dec. 23, 2:30 p.m.: Dartmouth Fuel Kids versus Amherst Ramblers. Dec. 30, 2:30 p.m.: Dartmouth Fuel Kids versus Moncton Hawkes.

Metro Valley Senior A Hockey:

Dec. 2, 7 p.m.: Moosehead Mounties versus Windsor Schooners. Dec. 9, 7 p.m.: Moosehead Mounties versus Chester Olands Exports. Dec. 16, 7 p.m.: Moosehead Mounties versus Bridgewater Ten Pennies. Dec. 23, 7 p.m.: Moosehead Mounties versus Charlottetown Islanders. Dec. 30, 7 p.m.: Moosehead Mounties versus Bridgewater Ten Pennies.

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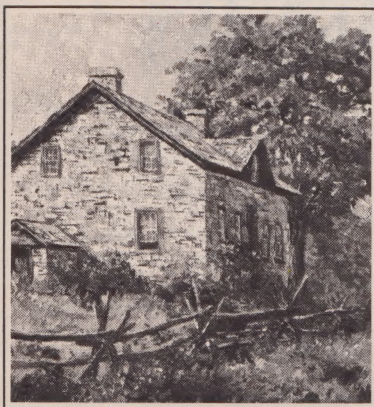
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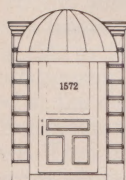
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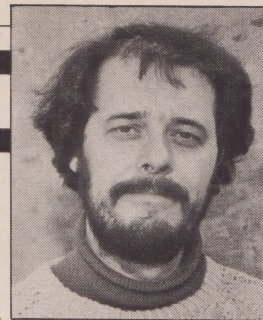
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A special time and place



by Tom Sinclair-Faulkner

I know I had mixed feelings during the Pope's visit to Halifax last September. I think John Paul II did too.

Let me start with what delighted me. There is too little that is "marvellous" in the modern world, too little that excites our sense of wonder. Before the modern era people thought that some places and times were more special than others. They called them "holy," but you and I would say "real." When they drew a map of the world, only one place could stand in the centre: Jerusalem, the holy city of Jews, Christians and Muslims. Everything else took its own "reality" from its relationship to the holy thing that stood at the centre.

But modern maps have no sacred centre. They are centred on the "Greenwich meridian," a purely arbitrary line, chosen simply because the geographer who first proposed it happened to be working in the town of Greenwich at the time. In our secular world, one place is as good as another; no place is special, more "real."

Halifax is a modern, secular city, but the Pope created in many of us an awareness of something holy when he came to the Commons. Make allowance for the fact that many people really were not interested enough to come at all. Make allowance for the fact that many people who did come behaved like "groupies" in the presence of a movie celebrity. What you have left is a keenly focused awareness among the rest that the Pope of the Christians transforms the time and space that he enters. One need not be a Catholic (and I am not) or even a Christian to see that this is so for many people.

That time and place were special for thousands of us. It was not a moment like any other, not a place like any other. It was (in the ancient meaning of that word) *miraculous*: a time and a place that excited our sense of wonder, shedding its reflection on other times and places in our lives. For me, Halifax was changed, never to be quite the same again.

That is what delighted me. Now let me say what troubled me.

In an age when we choose our leaders democratically instead of giving our allegiance to kings, the Pope is a sym-

bol of monarchical power. I know, I know: the Pope carries a staff surmounted by a graphic sculpture of Jesus, despised and helpless on the cross. As the "Vicar" of Christ, the Pope literally "stands in" for that humble, suffering servant. But can anyone seriously perceive the Pope in that light when he mounts a platform on the Halifax Commons that would be envied by any emperor?

There was a moment in 1981 when John Paul II was struck down by an assassin's bullets. That was a terrible time, and one that I hope will never be

John Paul could have rebuked us, or he could have washed his hands of the whole "royal tour" approach to religious renewal. But he did not. He responded to us with gentle irony...

repeated. But my view is that the Pope was a far more effective "vicar" or "stand-in" for Christ at that time than he was on any towering platform during his Canadian visit.

Whether their power is spiritual or temporal, having monarchs can be dangerous. We tend to turn to them as saviours with a "quick fix" when the problems that beset us look overwhelming. Norman Cohn, the Jewish historian of "end-of-the-world" movements, noticed this pattern occurring over and over again in Western history. Ordinary people who despair of setting their world right may abandon themselves to vain dreams of a human king who will return to set everything right. The English may dream of Arthur, the French of Charlemagne, and the Germans of Frederick.

When the Pope, crowned and robed, stands high and mighty atop a pyramid, I fear we may be tempted to

abandon personal responsibility for the religious value of our own lives. After all, we are so ordinary and he is so regal. Surely he will end the decay and frustration that surround us!

He will not. He has gone back to Rome, and we are still here. If the parish that we live in is to be renewed, it will be because of how *we* live, not because of how some distant but powerful figure lives.

I think that John Paul himself was aware of this issue during his visit.

I was following his speech at the Youth Rally on Thursday night, comparing what he said with the written copy that I had in my hand. He had just finished explaining that all people are united because all are brothers and sisters of Christ, when the crowd of 75,000 burst into a cheer that could have won the pennant for the Expos.

John Paul lowered his printed text, narrowed his eyes slightly at us, and ad-libbed a line that most of the cheering crowd missed: "I am glad to see that you understand the central mystery of our faith *so well*."

When most of us use the word "mystery," we mean something that is difficult to sort out, like an Agatha Christie novel. Clever people can do it in a short time by using a few clues; persistent people can do it by reading the whole book.

But theologians mean something different by "mystery." They mean something that cannot be completely understood by any human being, no matter how clever or good. That we are all one is a "mystery."

Deep down we all know we are *not* all one. When the Pope declares that we are really "all one," the proper response is reflective silence, not a loud cheer.

John Paul could have rebuked us, or he could have washed his hands of the whole "royal tour" approach to religious renewal. But he did not. He responded to us with gentle irony, a gift that Jesus, Mohammed, the Buddha, the Baal Shem Tov and others had call to exercise when they saw more deeply than the rest of us, but did not want to cut us off.

Tom Sinclair-Faulkner is professor of religion at Dalhousie University and editor-at-large of The Christian Century.

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